

Future of Covered Electronic Waste Management in California

Introduction

The purpose of today's workshop is to engage stakeholders in discussing possible approaches to challenges facing electronic waste management in California. The Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 (SB 20) established a variety of measures intended to develop an infrastructure to provide convenient recycling opportunities, reduce the inappropriate disposal of certain electronic devices, limit the sale of certain hazardous products in the state, and require notification and/or reporting of product sales and waste management activities. California's existing electronic waste management program has been highly successful in collecting and properly handling covered electronic waste generated in the state. The current program has fostered a robust collection and recycling network while significantly relieving local jurisdictions and businesses of the cost burden of managing these wastes and providing convenient collection opportunities for all generators.

However, by definition, the covered electronic waste ([CEW](#)) recycling program currently addresses only certain video display devices. Increasingly complex technologies are being discarded, often with less intrinsic material value, which are more difficult to dismantle and contain components requiring special handling. Meanwhile, global economics are disrupting commodity markets and necessary environmental regulations present challenges to industry compliance.

In recognition of these future challenges, CalRecycle initiated a project to explore various approaches for a comprehensive e-waste management system. E-Waste stakeholders participated in a survey in July 2016 and a subsequent workshop in September. [Presentations](#) and informal [notes](#) from the workshop, including a summary of survey findings, are posted on CalRecycle's [Public Notices](#) website.

Staff has prepared three background documents to help frame today's discussion. Please note that these documents are NOT CalRecycle policy proposals to adjust the existing CEW system. Instead, they are responsive to input at the previous workshop and are intended for discussion purposes, as examples using a specific product category to illustrate the issues that would need to be considered before moving forward with any specific proposal. Printers were selected for this scenario because they are frequently mentioned when discussing expansion of the covered electronic waste definition. The two scenarios described in the attached documents are: 1) expanding the definition of covered electronic devices (CED) under the current California CEW recovery and recycling program to include printers; and 2) developing a product stewardship program separate from the existing CEW program to collect and manage printers.

The third attachment poses some of the many questions that would need to be addressed if CalRecycle wished to consider a product stewardship model for all e-waste.

Also note that CalRecycle is separately considering whether and how to make other changes to the existing CEW program that do not require legislation, including how to provide multiple payment rates for existing covered devices and whether and how to modify specific documentation requirements.

Attachments

1. Concepts for Enhancing Existing Fee and Payment Model – Adding Printers as CEW
2. Concepts for Electronic Waste Product Stewardship Model – Printer Scenario
3. Questions to Consider for an Electronic Waste Management Product Stewardship Model